



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,882	11/20/2003	Jan Mulder	4590-235	5631
33308	7590	07/14/2006	EXAMINER	
LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP 1700 DIAGNOSTIC ROAD, SUITE 300 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EPPS, TODD MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/716,882	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MULDER, JAN	
	<b>Examiner</b> Todd M. Epps	<b>Art Unit</b> 3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

This is the second Office Action for serial number 10/716,882, Elementary And Complex Coupling Devices, And Their Use, filed on November 20, 2003.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, lines 6, 8, and 10, the phrases "two separate points" on each line above are not clear. Not sure what the applicant meant by this phrase and separated points of what?

Regarding claim 4, with all hinging means allow rotation around any axis with respect to what ground? It is not clear.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-2, 5-18, and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,419,238 to Flory.

Flory '238 discloses an elementary coupling device, comprising a means for stiffening the elementary coupling device against torsion (fig. 1), linking means (5,6,7,15,16,17) for linking the means for stiffening to a second object (1) to be coupled, first hinging (2,3,4) means for hinging each means for linking directly or indirectly on the second object (1) to be coupled to be coupled at two separate points, second hinging (8,9,10,12,13,14) means for hinging the means for stiffening on each means for linking at two separate points, third hinging (18,19,20) means for hinging the stiffening means (11) directly or indirectly on a first object (37) to be coupled at two separate points; wherein the stiffening means is a box (11); wherein the third hinging means allows rotation around one axis and the axis crossing the centres of the third hinging means; wherein third hinging means allows translational movement (fig. 1); a connecting means (fig. 1 – below 2<sup>nd</sup> hinging means) to connecting which the means for linking are connected, the connecting means being hinged to the linking means by the first and second hinging means being fixed on the second object (1) to be coupled; a first connecting means (fig. 1 – above 2<sup>nd</sup> hinging means) for connecting the first object (21) to be coupled, the first connecting means being hinged to the stiffening means (11) by the third hinging means at two separate points; wherein the linking means rest on the second connecting means, and first connecting means are means for supporting the first object (21); coupling device further comprising three elementary coupling devices (fig. 1); wherein the three elementary devices are mounted relatively to each other so that the axes of all elementary coupling devices are mutually perpendicular, these elementary axes being the axes normal to the planes defined by the two means for

Art Unit: 3632

liking of each elementary coupling device (fig. 1); wherein the angles between the axes of the linking means of the three elementary coupling devices and the vertical direction are equal to arcos (fig. 1); further comprising means for absorbing vibrations and shocks (column 2, lines 10-40); further comprising one means for absorbing vibrations and shocks in between each group of two elementary coupling devices (fig. 1); further comprising means for covering the complex coupling device on its sides (fig. 1); wherein the means for supporting is common to the three elementary coupling devices; and wherein the supporting means is specially adapted for sensor equipment (column 1, lines 29-30).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Claims 3 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flory '238.

Flory '238 fails to disclose wherein the stiffening means is a hollow box. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified a box of Flory '238 to be a hollow box wherein doing so would provide thereof to enhance the structural strength and rigidity of the box.

Regarding claim 19, Flory '238 fails to disclose wherein the means for supporting is an inverted cone with six-sided plate. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the

Art Unit: 3632

shape to a cone with the six-sided plate wherein doing so would provide thereof an additional strength on top for a bigger sensor equipment placed on it.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claim 4, the prior art fails to disclose wherein all hinging means allow rotation around any axis.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed April 20, 2006 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

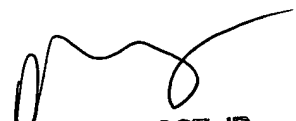
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Todd M. Epps whose telephone number is 571-272-8282. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-4:30).

Art Unit: 3632

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Todd M. Epps  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3632  
July 10, 2006



**RICHARD E. CHILCOTE, JR.**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**